

**County of Santa Clara**  
**Emergency Medical Services Agency**



24-5335

**DATE:** April 16, 2024 (Item No. 36)

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Jackie Lowther, EMS Director

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC) Membership

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approve the appointment of primary and alternate members to the Emergency Medical Care Committee as recommended by the Emergency Medical Services Agency.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The recommended action does not have any impact on the General Fund.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION AND BACKGROUND**

Consistent with the Santa Clara County Emergency Medical Services Strategic Plan, the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency evaluated the existing EMS system committee and advisory meeting structures and developed a more effective and efficient advisory body entitled the Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC).

The purpose of the EMCC, as specified in the California Health and Safety Code Section 1797.274 and 1797.276, is to review the operations of each of the following at least annually:

1. Ambulance services operating within the county.
2. Emergency medical care offered within the county, including programs for training large numbers of people in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and lifesaving first aid techniques.
3. First aid practices in the county.

The EMCC convenes to provide the Santa Clara County EMS Agency with its observations and recommendations relative to its review of the items above in addition to providing feedback related to the EMS System Strategic Plan, policy, education and training, quality improvement, public access, and EMS system operations.

The EMCC also makes recommendations related to the use of the EMS Trust Fund for the funding of Category C: Stakeholder Projects consistent with Santa Clara County Prehospital Care Policy EMS Reference #812 Trust Fund Guide and Application.

Recommendations made by the EMCC, in the form of meeting minutes, will be provided to the Health Advisory Commission by the Chair and will be published to the EMS Agency website, and available for public review.

Although the County is not required to have an Emergency Medical Care Committee, the California Health and Safety Code, Section 1797.272, Emergency Medical Care Committee Membership, states in part that “[t]he county board of supervisors shall prescribe the membership, and appoint the members, of the emergency medical care committee” if an EMCC exists. Until now, the Health Advisory Commission (HAC) has approved the bylaws of the EMCC.

The EMS Agency requests that the Board of Supervisors approve the following persons to be voting members of the Emergency Medical Care Committee and to authorize the Director of Emergency Medical Services to fill any identified vacancies. The vacant positions will be filled with individuals that are selected by external stakeholder organizations including the Santa Clara County City Managers’ Association, Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs’ Association, Santa Clara County Police Chiefs’ Association, Hospital Council of Northern California, and the South Bay Medical Directors Association. These positions are:

- A. A practicing emergency department physician whose primary practice is in an acute care hospital in Santa Clara County, nominated by SBEMDA (South Bay Emergency Medical Directors’ Association):  
**Anthony Montefusco, MD; El Camino Hospital**  
**Melissa Lynch, MD; Good Samaritan Hospital** (alternate)
- B. A registered nurse practicing within Santa Clara County, nominated by the EMS Agency:  
**Dominica Deangelo, RN; Kaiser San Jose**  
**Robin Callahan, RN; Kaiser Santa Clara** (alternate)
- C. A practicing physician and surgeon whose primary practice is in EMS specialty care in Santa Clara County (stroke, trauma, and cardiac care):  
**Joseph Forrester, MD; Stanford Health Care**  
**Mary Wolfe, MD; Valley Medical Center** (alternate)
- D. A practicing field paramedic or EMT, nominated by the EMS Agency to represent private sector paramedics and EMTs. This position requires that the member routinely respond to calls for EMS service as the primary patient care provider:  
**Scott Hochstetler, Paramedic; County Ambulance/AMR**  
**James O’Connor, Paramedic; County Ambulance/AMR** (alternate)
- E. A practicing field paramedic or EMT, nominated by the Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs’ Association to represent public sector paramedics and EMTs. This position requires that the member routinely respond to calls for EMS service as the primary patient care provider:

**Mario Bena, Paramedic; Milpitas Fire Department**

**Kristen Cunningham; Milpitas Fire Department (alternate)**

- F. An executive officer of the emergency ambulance service provider for the Santa Clara County Exclusive Operating Area, nominated by that organization:

**Darryl McClanahan, Regional Director; County Ambulance/AMR**

**Todd Daye, Paramedic, Administrative Supervisor; County Ambulance/AMR (alternate)**

- G. An executive fire officer of the emergency ambulance service provider for the Palo Alto Service Area, nominated by that organization:

**Geoffrey Blackshire, Fire Chief, Palo Alto Fire Department**

**Kevin McNally, Deputy Fire Chief, Palo Alto Fire Department (alternate)**

- H. An executive officer of a permitted ambulance service provider, other than the emergency ambulance service provider for the exclusive operating area, nominated by the EMS Agency:

**Jeff Burns, Operations Manager; Royal Ambulance**

**Danielle Johnstone, Operations Manager; NorCal Ambulance (alternate)**

- I. An executive fire officer of a fire department or fire district, nominated by the Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs' Association:

**Jim Wyatt, Fire Chief, Gilroy Fire Department**

**Arlen Summers, Division Chief, Gilroy Fire (alternate)**

- J. An executive officer of the law enforcement agency, nominated by the Santa Clara County Police Chiefs' Association:

**Phan Ngo, Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety**

**Robert Jonsen, Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office (alternate)**

- K. A City Manager, nominated by the Santa Clara County City Managers' Association:

**Kent Stephens, City Manager, City of Sunnyvale**

**Jennifer Maquire, City Manager, City of San Jose (alternate)**

- L. One Commissioner from the Health Advisory Commission, nominated by the Health Advisory Commission:

**Dr. Anirudh Sreekrishnan, Health Advisory Commissioner, EMCC Chair**

**Dr. Kenneth Horowitz, Health Advisory Commissioner, EMCC Chair (alternate)**

- M. An executive manager from Santa Clara County Communications, nominated by that organization:

**Trisha Adcock, Director, Santa Clara County Communications**

**Nicholas Baham, Deputy Director, Santa Clara County Communications**  
(alternate)

- N. An executive from the Hospital Council of Northern California, nominated by that organization:

**Jo Coffaro, President, Hospital Council of Northern California**

**Dale Beatty, RN, Chief Nurse Executive, Stanford Hospital & Clinics** (alternate)

- O. An acute care hospital representative with an emergency department that operates within Santa Clara County, nominated by the EMS Agency:

**Karen Walker, RN, O'Connor Hospital**

**Kay Jaramillo, RN, El Camino Hospital** (alternate)

Each of the 15 members shall have one vote; provided, however, the Chair shall only cast a vote when it is necessary to break a tie due to the absence of one or more voting members.

The only exception to the paragraph above shall be when the EMCC has convened to present recommendations related to Category C of the EMS Trust Fund. For applications under Category C of the EMS Trust Fund, the EMCC Chair will seat a subcommittee to review the project proposals. The subcommittee shall consist of five members that best represent the diversity of the Santa Clara County EMS System. The County Service Area EOA ambulance provider may not be a member of this subcommittee. The Chair will cast one vote and be part of the five subcommittee members.

The Board appointed designated alternate shall vote in the place of the primary member in their absence. If a Board approved designated alternate is not present, no vote shall be cast for the position.

### Background

Prior to 2003, the Santa Clara County Emergency Medical Services System had an EMS Committee in addition to the Health Advisory Commission (HAC), which had an EMS Subcommittee. These two committees were then combined into the Emergency Medical Services Committee (EMSCo), which was chaired by a member of the Health Advisory Commission.

Over the years, the membership of EMSCo was modified to reflect the current priorities of the emergency medical services system, and the number of Health Advisory Commissioners was reduced with approval from the HAC. On July 20, 2016, the Health Advisory Commission reviewed the proposed bylaws but was unable to approve the changes due to a lack of quorum. On August 17, 2016, the Health Advisory Commission approved the bylaws. At the request of HAC, clarification was added to the voting process in addition to non-substantive changes to wording.

The transition from EMSCo to the EMCC provides a broader scope for the committee that is consistent with the California Health and Safety Code. Specifically, the focus will be on community preparedness including CPR and first aid practices, and in ambulance service provision within the County. Additionally, the voting membership was aligned to match key

stakeholder groups while the group of advisers was expanded to include all Santa Clara County EMS Stakeholders so that feedback from any member or organization has a defined path.

### **CHILD IMPACT**

The recommended action will have no/neutral impact on children and youth.

### **SENIOR IMPACT**

The recommended action will have no/neutral impact on seniors.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

The recommended action will have no/neutral sustainability implications.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

The County will not be able to seat voting members of the Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC) consistent with the provisions of the California Health and Safety Code.

### **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is requested to notify Jackie Lowther at [Jackie.Lowther@ems.sccgov.org](mailto:Jackie.Lowther@ems.sccgov.org) of completed processing.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC) Standing Rules